State of California, State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights

P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000 Info: (916) 341-5300, FAX: (916) 341-5400 Web: http://waterrights.ca.gov

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF WATER DIVERSION AND USE FORM

Owner(s) of Record:

COLOMA-LOTUS RANCH DITCH USERS ASSOC

S000388

2005, 2006, 2007

Notifying the Division of Water Rights of ownership or address changes is the responsibility of the claimant

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										i (explain)·		
B. <u>Year of</u>	First Use:	(Please pr	ovide if mis	ssing in th	e Division	of Rights	database (ewrims))(1	853				
C. Rate of	Diversion:	The rate	of diversio	n of water	for each r	nonth used	d and enter	ed in the ta	ble below is	s shown ir	units of:		
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Irrigation Other (s	pecify)F	RIGAT	TIONT	TICH	SERV	ING A	PPROX		EMRER	s who	ONN	SMALL	EARMS ,
<u> </u>	<u>CHES 8</u>	<u>k Busi</u>	INESSE	: S									
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(New pu	ımp, enlarge	ea aiversio	ın dam, loc	ation of a N O N		(C.)							
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a.	Are you n Describe	now employ any water	ying water conservati	conservation efforts	tion efforts you have	? YES initiated:	_	NO					
b.			credit for wa		ervation un	der section	n 1011 of ti	ne Water Co	ode for you	r claimed	pre-1914 a		ve right, please
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		Reduction in consumptiv	ve use: (AF/MG) Year		(AF/MG) Year		_ (AF/MG)
		I have data to support th					
2.	Wat	er quality and wastewater			·		
	a.	a degree which unreaso	nably affects such water	er for other beneficial t	ises? TES NO		r water polluted by waste to
	b.	If you are claiming credi appropriative right unde supply used:	t due to the substitution r section 1010 of the Wa	of reclaimed water, d ater Code, please sho	esalinated water or po w amounts of reduced	Iluted water in lieu of I diversions and amo	a claimed pre-1914 nunts of substitute water
		Amount of reduced dive	rsion: (AF/MG) Year		(AF/MG) Year		_ (AF/MG)
		State the type of substit	ute water supply:				
		Amount of substitute wa Year I have data to support the	nter supply used: (AF/MG) Year ne above surface water	use reductions due to	(AF/MG) Year the use of a substitute	e water supply. YES	_ (AF/MG) ; NO
3.	Cor	njunctive use of surface w					
	a.	Are you now using grou	ndwater in lieu of surfac	ce water? YES	NO		
	b.	Code, please show the Year I have data to support to	amounts of groundwate (AF/MG) Year he above surface water	use reductions due to	(AF/MG) Year the use of groundwat	ter. YESNO	_
SO	ught i	tand that it may be neces n the future.				ider Water Code sec	tions to to and to this
		e that the information in th					Q-IIfai-
DA	TE:	JULY 1,	0 <u>U8</u> at <u>WEST</u>	SACRAMENT	0		_, California
SI	GNAT	TURE:					
PF	RINTE	D NAME: GUY G.	GIBSON JR_st name)	(middle initial)	\mathcal{L}	(last name)	
CC	MPA	NY NAME:					
ITI	ΞM	If there is insuffice CONTINUAT	cient space for your ans TION	swers, please use the	space provided below	or add an attachmei	nt sheet.
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		There are to	GENERAL INFORMA wo principal types of sui	ATION PERTAINING Trace water rights in C	TO WATER RIGHTS I alifornia. They are ripa	N CALIFORNIA arian and appropriati	ive rights.

A <u>riparian right</u> enables an owner of land bordering a natural lake or stream to take and use water on his riparian land. Riparian land must be in the same watershed as the water source and must never have been severed from the sources of supply by an intervening parcel without reservation of the riparian right to the severed parcel. Generally, a riparian water user must share the water supply with other riparian users. Riparian rights may be used to divert the natural flow of a stream but may not be used to store water for later use or to divert water which originates in a different watershed, water previously stored by others, return flows from use of groundwater, or other "foreign" water to the natural stream system.

An <u>appropriative right</u> is required for use of water on non-riparian land and for storage of water. Generally, appropriative rights may be exercised only when there is a surplus not needed by riparian water users. After the formation of the California Water Commission back on December 19, 1914, new appropriators have been required to obtain a permit and license from the State. Appropriative rights can be granted to waters "foreign" to the natural stream system.

Statements of Water Diversion and Use must be filed by riparian and pre-1914 appropriative water users as set forth in Water Code section 5100 with specific exceptions. The filing of a statement (1) provides a record of water use, (2) enables the State to notify such users if someone proposes a new appropriation upstream from their diversions, and (3) assists the State to determine if additional water is available for future appropriators.

The above discussion is provided for general information. For more specific information concerning water rights, please contact an attorney or write to this office. We have several pamphlets available. They include: (1) Statements of Water Diversion and Use, (2) Information Pertaining to Water Rights in California, and (3) Appropriation of Water in California.

Page 2 of 2

S000388

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

P.O. BOX 2000, SACRAMENTO, CA 95812-2000 (916) 657-2170

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF WATER DIVERSION AND USE

If the information below is inaccurate, please line it out in red and provide current information. Notify this office if ownership or address changes occur during the coming year.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM BY JULY 1, 1999

OWNER OF RECORD: COLOMA-LOTUS RANCH DITCH USERS ASSOC

JAMES E BARNETT PO BOX 550 LOTUS, CA 95651

STATEMENT NO: 1000

SOURCE: SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER

TRIBUTARY TO:

COUNTY: EL DORADO

DIVERSION

WITHIN: NE% OF SW% SECTION 26, T11N, R10E, MB&M.

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

(916) 626-9203

YEAR OF FIRST USE: 1853

PARCEL NO:

. <u>Y</u>	ear of firs	st use (Ple Use – Ente	ase provi	de if missi	ng above)	180	53	·		Other (explain);				
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a. Are you now or have you been using reclaimed water from a wastewater treatment facility, desalination facility or water polluted by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects such water for other beneficial uses? YES ______ NO _____.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

		P.O. BOX 2000, SACR	AMENTO, CA 95812-2000 657-2170)	
b.	If credit toward use under a claimed pre polluted water in lieu of appropriated wat and amounts of reclaimed water used:	er is claimed under sec	tion 1010 of the water C	ode, please show amount	3 of reduced diversions
	19 (af/mg	ı) 19 <u> </u>	(af/mg) 19_	•	(af/mg)
Cor	njunctive use of surface water and ground	vater			
a.	Are you now using groundwater in lieu of	surface water? YES	NO <u>*</u>		
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	19 (af/mg) 19	(af/mg) 19		(af/mg)
l deck	are that the information in this report is true	e to the best of my know	wledge and belief.		
DATE	: 5-10 .19 <u>9</u>	at Loto	·s		, California
SIGN	ATURE: Zy f. Com				
PRIN	TED NAME: Larry (first name)		(middle init.)	(last r	name)
	PANY NAME: Colomb- Lots	ا م	tah coers	1350c.	

If there is insufficient space for your answers, please use the space provided below.

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GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO WATER RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA

There are two principal types of surface water rights in California. They are riparian and appropriative rights.

A <u>riparian right</u> enables an owner of land bordering a natural lake or stream to take and use water on his riparian land. Riparian land must be in the same watershed as the water source and must never have been severed from the sources of supply by an intervening parcel without reservation of the riparian right to the severed parcel. Generally, a riparian water user must share the water supply with other riparian users. Riparian rights may be used to divert the natural flow of a stream but may not be used to store water for later use or divert water which originates in a different watershed, or return flows from use of groundwater.

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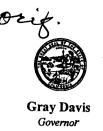
3.



State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights

901 P Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 657-1945 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2000 • Sacramento, California • 95812-2000 FAX (916) 657-1485 • Web Site Address: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov



In Reply Refer to:363:CAR:262.0(09-05)

JUN 0 4 1999

Coloma-Lotus Ditch Association c/o Mr. James Barnett P.O. Box 550 Lotus, CA 95651

Dear Mr. Barnett:

WATER RIGHTS COMPLAINT FROM THE CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE REGARDING DIVERSION FROM THE SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER IN EL DORADO COUNTY

The State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) Division of Water Rights has received a complaint from the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA). The complaint alleges that the Coloma-Lotus Ditch Association (Association) may be diverting water without a valid basis of right. A copy of the complaint is enclosed for your review.

I am aware that Statement of Water Diversion and Use No. S000388 is on file with this office under the Association's name. While this document is not by itself a basis of right, the information contained therein indicates that the initial diversion of water into the Coloma-Lotus Ditch began prior to 1853. Therefore, a valid claim to a pre-1914 appropriative right may very well have been initiated. CSPA representatives have indicated to me that they believe a sufficient period of nonuse occurred after 1914 so that any claim of a pre-1914 appropriative right for the Coloma-Lotus Ditch that may have been initiated would no longer be valid.

According to a letter contained in the file for S000388 dated June 17, 1987, from Brian E. Maloney, counsel for the Association, to the Board Members of the Association, the El Dorado Irrigation District contracted with the Coloma-Lotus Ditch Company from 1966 through 1986 to operate and maintain the ditch as well as supply the Company's customers with water. This letter also contains the following discussion of pre-1914 rights:

"... with regards to the maintenance and disposition of pre-1914 water rights, I wish to bring the following to the Board's attention. <u>I should also note that this is merely general information and it is necessary for me to complete my research before the following should be acted upon.</u>

Prior to 1872, appropriative water rights could be acquired by simply taking and beneficially using water. Thereafter, in 1872, the legislature enacted certain laws which were included in the Civil Code and which established a permissive procedure for perfecting an appropriation of water. Basically speaking, these provisions, including posting the notice of appropriation at the proposed point of diversion and recording a copy thereof with the County Recorder. Under such sections, if the statutory procedures were followed and the appropriation was completed with due diligence, the appropriative right related back to the date of posting.

Where a water right was acquired under these early laws, it could only be maintained by continuous beneficial use of the water. Thus, regardless of the amount claimed in the original notice of appropriation, or at the time of diversion and use first began, the amount which can now be rightfully claimed under a pre-1914 appropriative right is the amount fixed by actual beneficial use both as to the amount and season of diversion. Such a right can be lost either by abandonment (where there is the intent to abandon) or merely by nonuse.

If a claim to water based upon a pre-1914 appropriative right is disputed, the law will require evidence of both the original appropriation and the subsequent maintenance of the right by continuous and diligent application of water to beneficial use. Moreover, a record of such water use under a pre-1914 appropriative right should be established by the filing of a statement of water diversion and use. The law requires that such a statement be completed for diversions during the calendar year and should be filed before July 1 of the following year.

With respect to the transfer of a pre-1914 water right, much has been written with respect to the problem of uncertainty as to the amount of water which can be transferred. This is mainly due to the absence of quantity restrictions and centralized recording which renders it difficult to determine with any degree of precision exactly what amount of water an appropriator may claim under any particular pre-1914 right.

In addition, it has long been settled in California that an appropriator may change the point of diversion, place of use, or character of the use of water in the exercise of his appropriative right without affecting his right to divert and use the water, provided that the rights of others are not thereby impaired. The Water Code provides that where a person is entitled to the use of water by virtue of an appropriation made prior to the effective date of the Water Commission Act, he may 'change the point of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use if others are not injured by such change, and may extend the ditch, flume, pipe or

aqueduct by which the diversion is made to places beyond that where the first use was made'. Section 1706 <u>California Water Code</u>. It should be noted that this is a general rule only and that a subsequent appropriator is free to claim that a change in the point of diversion has resulted to his or her injury." (double underlining mine)

Did Mr. Maloney ever complete his research? If not, do you have evidence of both the original appropriation and the subsequent maintenance of the right by continuous and diligent application of water to beneficial use from 1914 until today? The file for S000388 only contains limited information regarding diversions made during 1966 and the period between 1989 and 1995. Submittal of documentation regarding the full record of diversion from 1914 to today would significantly aid our analysis of this complaint.

I have also enclosed "Answer to Complaint" forms and an information pamphlet regarding our complaint process. Please respond to the allegations in the complaint within 15 days from the date of this letter. Upon receipt of your response, all items submitted by each party will be evaluated to determine whether further action is required by the SWRCB.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at (916) 657-1945.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Charles A. Rich, Chief Complaint Unit

Enclosures

cc: Mr. James Crenshaw, President California Sportfishing Protection Alliance 1248 East Oak Avenue, Unit D Woodland, CA 95776

Mr. Robert J. Baiocchi, Consultant California Sportfishing Protection Alliance P.O. Box 357 Quincy, CA 95971

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD, DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS P.O. BOX 2000 SACRAMENTO, CA 95812-2000 (916) 657-2170

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF WATER DIVERSION AND USE

If the information below is inaccurate, please line it out in red and provide current information. Notify this office if ownership or address changes occur during the coming year.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM BY JULY 1, 1996.

OWNER OF RECORD: COLOMA-LOTUS RANCH DITCH USERS ASSOC

		P O BC	E BARN X 550 CA 95									STATE	ment :	NO: S0	00388	
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See back of page for General Information. If there is insufficient space for your answers, please number them in the space provided on the back of this form.

12-11-95

** PLEASE COMPLETE, SUBMIT THE ORIGINAL AND MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS **

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

P.O. BOX 2000 SACRAMENTO, CA 95812-2000

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF WATER DIVERSION AND USE

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PLEASE COMPLETE, SUBMIT THE ORIGINAL AND MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS E. Changes in Method of Diversion - Describe any changes in your project since your previous statement was filed. (New pump, enlarged diversion dam, location of diversion, etc.) F. If part of the water listed in Part C consists of reclaimed or polluted water, please indicate the annual amounts of reclaimed or polluted water in the space below. I declare under penalty of perjury that the information in this report is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. , 1995 SIGNATURE: PRINTED NAME: (M. NAME) COMPANY NAME: nnis GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO WATER RIGHTS IN CALIFORNIA There are two principal types of surface water rights in California. They are riparian and appropriative rights. A riparian right enables an owner of land bordering a natural lake or stream to take and use water on his riparian land. Riparian land must be in the same watershed as the water source and must never have been severed from the sources of supply by an intervening parcel without reservation of the riparian right to the severed parcel. Generally, a riparian water user must share the water supply with other riparian users. Riparian rights may be used to divert the natural flow of a stream but may not be used to store water for later use or to divert water which originates in a different watershed, or return flows from use of groundwater. An appropriate right is required for use of water on nonriparian land and for storage of water. Generally, appropriative rights may be exercised only when there is a surplus not needed by riparian water users. Since 1914 new appropriators have been required to obtain a permit and license from the State. Statements of Water Diversion and Use must be filed by riparian and pre-1914 appropriative water users. The filing of a statement (1) provides a record of water use, (2) enables the State to notify such users if someone proposes a new appropriation upstream from their diversion, and (3) assists the State to determine if additional water is available for future appropriators. The above discussion is provided for general information. For more specific information concerning water rights, please contact an attorney or write to this office. We have several pamphlets available. They include:

"Statements of Water Diversion and Use"

"Appropriation of Water in California"

"Information Pertaining to Water Rights in California"
"Water Rights for Stockponds Constructed Prior to 1969"

WR 40-1 (1/95) FOR0127R3 (916) 657-2046 FAX: (916) 657-1485

JAN 1 2 1995

In Reply Refer to: 341:RMD:1692

Mr. Frederick C. McKain Engineering Department El Dorado Irrigation District Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Mr. McKain:

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/STATUS FOR EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT (EID) WATER RIGHTS; APPLICATION NOS. A1692, A7478, A11675, A13794, A14426, & A15140; STATEMENT OF WATER DIVERSION AND USE NOS. \$388, \$9304, \$9528, \$10717, \$13501, & \$13502

This letter is to follow up several phone conversations since January 5, 1995 concerning the status of reports required for the different water rights held by EID. The information provided below is based on our automated database, the "Water Rights Information Management System," rather than a comprehensive review of the files. Please let us know of any discrepancies.

APPROPRIATIVE RIGHTS

Our records indicate that EID, as sole owner, had filed sixteen applications for appropriative rights. Ten of these are no longer active, with seven cancelled before being permitted and three being revoked. Of the six that are active, five have been licensed while one is still under permit. Our records do not show any active permits or licenses with EID listed as a co-owner.

For a project under a permit, an annual "Progress Report by Permittee" is required until the project is licensed. Our records indicate that EID has one project under permit, specifically Permit 4071 (Application 7478) on the Middle Fork Cosumnes River. No annual progress report has been submitted since 1989 for this permit. As requested, enclosed for your completion are duplicate pre-printed copies of the 1991, 1992, and 1993 Progress Report forms for Permit 4071. I was unable to locate a pre-printed duplicate Progress Report form for 1990.

For projects that have been issued licenses, pre-printed "Report of Licensee" forms are distributed for completion on three-year intervals. The Licensee Reports for three of your licenses were last submitted for the three-year interval ending in 1988.

These three licenses are: (1) License 2184 (Application 1692), North Fork Weber Creek; (2) License 11400 (Application 11675), South Fork American River; and (3) License 11401 (Application 15140), South Fork American River. Enclosed for your completion are the duplicate pre-printed copies of Licensee Report forms for 1989, 1990, and 1991 for these rights.

The Licensee Reports for the remaining two licenses were last submitted for the three-year interval ending in 1984. These licenses are: (1) License 8176 (Application 13794), Deer Creek; and (2) License 8177 (Application 14426), also on Deer Creek. Enclosed for your completion are duplicate pre-printed copies of Licensee Report forms for 1988, 1989, and 1990 and for 1991, 1992, and 1993 for these rights. (I was unable to locate duplicate copies of the Licensee Report forms for 1985, 1986, and 1987.) In one of our conversations, you indicated you were going to research whether there had been a change of ownership on these two rights. Enclosed for your convenience are copies of Form WR 29a, Notice of Assignment, which can be used to inform us of any ownership changes.

We are currently changing over to a new database and also have switched to a new mailing schedule for the pre-printed Licensee Report forms. All Licensee Report forms will be sent out alphabetically, with the first third being sent out at the end of this month and subsequent thirds sent out over the following two years. Therefore, it appears that the Licensee Report forms covering the three-year interval of 1992, 1993, and 1994 for all your licenses will be sent to you this month. Because of this new schedule, there will be duplicate reporting for some years.

RIPARIAN AND PRE-1914 APPROPRIATIVE RIGHTS

Persons diverting water under claim of riparian rights or pre-1914 appropriative rights, with certain exceptions, are required to file a "Statement of Water Diversion and Use" (Statement) with our office. The Statements are completed for diversions during a calendar year and should be filed before July 1 of the succeeding year. Thereafter, pre-printed Supplemental Statement forms are distributed for completion at three-year intervals. For additional information, please refer to the enclosed pamphlet titled "Statements of Water Diversions and Use," July 1977.

Our records show that EID has filed six Statements. One of these, S388, South Fork American River, was subsequently transferred to the Coloma-Lotus Ranch Ditch Users Association in 1991.

A summary of the remaining five Statements, including the last year we have records of water use, is provided below:

<u>No.</u> S09304	<u>Source</u> Bass Lake Reservoir	<u>Year</u> 1988
S09528	Clear Creek	1977
S10717	South Fork American River	1989
S13501	North Fork Cosumnes River	1990
S13502	Clear Creek	1990

I was unable to locate any duplicate pre-printed Supplemental Statement forms distributed on three-year intervals for these diversions. As a result, enclosed are blank Supplemental Statement forms for your use.

Similar to the Licensee Report forms, the mailing of the Supplemental Statement forms will be switched to alphabetical, with the first third mailed this month. Therefore, you should receive all of your pre-printed Supplemental Statement forms for 1992, 1993, and 1994 by the end of this month.

Thank you for your cooperation and if you have any questions, please write or telephone me at the above number.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Ronald M. Duff Associate WRC Engineer Permit and License Unit

Enclosures

RMDuff\lbitnoff 1/12/95 a:\rmd\1692



El Dorado Irrigation District

5-388

2890 MOSQUITO ROAD ● PLACERVILLE ● CALIFORNIA 95667 ● PHONE (916) 622-4534

In reply refer to: E0290-170

February 8, 1990

State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights P.O. Box 2000 Sacramento, CA 95810

Subject: Supplemental Statement of Water Diversion and Use

South Fork American River, Coloma/Lotus Area

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached you will find the Supplemental Statement of Water Diversion and Use for El Dorado Irrigation District, Statement No. 000388. This Statement is for years 1986, 1987 and 1988 on the South Fork of the American River near Coloma.

Very truly yours,

Frederick C. McKain

Director, Resource Planning

and Development

FCMc/SF:alc

Attachment

cc: Water Rights File - Supplemental Statements

STATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD Division of Water Rights

P.O. BOX 2000 SACRAMENTO, CA 95810 901 P ST. SACRAMENTO, CA (916) 322-4503

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT OF WATER DIVERSION AND USE

DIVERTER OF RECORD:

WR 40-I (11/85) 1418

STATEMENT NO: 000388

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD Division of Water Rights

P.O. BOX 2000 1. SACRAMENTO, CA 95810 901 P.ST. SACRAMENTO, CA (916) 322-4503

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LAW OFFICES OF

HEFNER, STARK & MAROIS

2710 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE SUITE 300 SOUTH

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95833

(916) 925-6620

HUGH B. BRADFORD (1876-1955) S.W. CROSS (1881-1956)

7

EL DORADO COUNTY OFFICE 3330 CAMERON PARK DRIVE CAMERON PARK, CALIFORNIA 95682 (916) 677-0245 TOLL FREE - PLACERVILLE AREA

(916) 621-0659 BAY AREA OFFICE 39650 LIBERTY ST. #300 FREMONT, CALIFORNIA 94538

(415) 659-9297 X PLEASE REPLY TO EL DORADO OFFICE IF THIS BOX IS CHECKED

O PLEASE REPLY TO BAY AREA OFFICE IF THIS BOX IS CHECKED

> FACSIMILE PHONE NO. (916) 925-1127

JOSEPH E. HUSTEIN 'A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

ARCHIE HEFNER, INC

JAMES M. WOODSIDE

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ROBERT N STARK

JOHN D. BESSEY

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TIMOTHY D. TARON

ROBERT S. WILLETT

TIMOTHY M. CRONAN

TODD A. MURRAY

ROBERT A. LAURIE

DAVID G YETTER

JOEL S. LEVY

JUDY CAMPOS MCKEEHAN

WILLIAM M GALLAGHER

June 17, 1987

888

Board of Directors Coloma-Lotus Ditch Users Assn. c/o Mr. Rod Seiler P.O. Box 693 Lotus, CA 95651

CHRISTINA SAVAGE

PEGGY J. CHATER

ROBERT P. BIEGLER

BRIAN E. MALONEY

DENNIS L. VIGLIONE

RONALD H. SARGIS

MARTIN B. STEINER

LISA A. WIBLE WRIGHT

JOHN D. SCHWARZ, JR

JEFFREY H. GRAYBILL

KEVIN F. SCHONEMAN

JANICE L. THURSTON

DAVID F. FEINGOLD

KIRK E. GIBERSON

HOWARD S. NEVINS

Re: Issues Pertaining to Coloma-Lotus Ditch

Dear Members of the Board:

As we have discussed in the past, I have researched several important issues involved in the above matter and wish to report to the Board on what I have found.

First of all, with respect to the status of the Coloma-Lotus Ditch Company as a public utility, it appears to me that such company may be found to be a public utility and subject to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Public Utilities

As you are aware, the Coloma-Lotus Ditch Company is a very loosely organized group of individuals who own or claim to own undivided interests or shares in the Coloma-Lotus ditch and water appropriated into such ditch. In 1966, the Coloma-Lotus Ditch Company contracted with the El Dorado Irrigation District ("EID") whereby the District agreed to operate and maintain the ditch, and, in addition, supply the Company's customers with water. Moreover, as everyone is now aware, EID supplied water under such agreement until January 1, 1987, when it elected not to renew

Section 2701 of the Public Utilities Act provides as follows:

> "Any person, firm or corporation, their lessees, trustees, receivers of trustees appointed by any court whatsoever, owning, controlling, operating, or managing any water system within this State, who sells, leases, rents,

Board of Directors Coloma-Lotus Ditch Users Assn. Page Two June 17, 1987

or delivers water to any person, firm, corporation, municipality, or any other political subdivision of the State, whether under contract or otherwise, is a public utility, and is subject to the provisions of Part 1 of Division 1 and to the jurisdiction, control and regulation of the commission, except as otherwise provided in this chapter."

Thus, it does appear that the Coloma-Lotus Ditch Company would fall under the class of individual or entity described by this section and would be found to be a public utility.

The Code does expressly exempt, however, mutual water companies which are organized solely for the purpose of delivering water to its members at cost and to no one else except as permitted by statute. Section 2705, Public Utilities Code.

Additionally, the Code further provides a procedure for obtaining a determination that a given person or firm is in fact a public utility and is subject to the Commissioner's jurisdiction. Section 2707 of the Code provides that:

"For the purpose of determining the status of any person, firm, or corporation, their lessees, trustees, receivers or trustees appointed by any court..., owning, controlling, operating or managing any water system or water supply within this state, the commission may hold hearings and issue process and orders in the manner and to the same extent provided in Part 1...(commencing with Section 201), and the finding and conclusions of the commission on questions of fact arising under this chapter are final and not subject to review, except as provided in Part 1... (commencing with Section 201).

The effect of finding a person or firm to be a public utility and subject to the Commissioner's jurisdiction is that such person or firm must first petition the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") for approval of certain proposed action before so acting. Thus, for example, it has been held that if improvements in the service offered are required, and adequate financing is available, the utility should be ordered to make such improvements even if the utility has in the past relied primarily on internally generated funds. Petition of Park Water Co. (1968) 68 Cal. P.U.C.

Board of Directors Coloma-Lotus Ditch Users Assn. Page Three June 17, 1987

Also, it has been held that authorization to discontinue the furnishing of water must also be first obtained. Rancho Green Valley Water Co. (1953) 53 Cal. P.U.C. 83.

Secondly, with regards to the maintenance and disposition of pre-1914 water rights, I wish to bring the following to the Board's attention. I should also note that this is merely general information and it is necessary for me to complete my research before the following should be acted upon.

Prior to 1872, appropriative water rights could be acquired by simply taking and beneficially using water. Thereafter, in 1872, the legislature enacted certain laws which were included in the Civil Code and which established a permissive procedure for perfecting an appropriation of water. Basically speaking, these provisions, including posting the notice of appropriation at the proposed point of diversion and recording a copy thereof with the County Recorder. Under such sections, if the statutory procedures were followed and the appropriation was completed with due diligence, the appropriative right related back to the date

Where a water right was acquired under these early laws, it could only be maintained by continuous beneficial use of the water. Thus, regardless of the amount claimed in the original notice of appropriation, or at the time of diversion and use first began, the amount which can now be rightfully claimed under a pre-1914 appropriative right is the amount fixed by actual beneficial use both as to the amount and season of diversion. Such a right can be lost either by abandonment (where there is the intent to abandon) or merely by nonuse.

If a claim to water based upon a pre-1914 appropriative right is disputed, the law will require evidence of both the original appropriation and the subsequent maintenance of the right by continuous and diligent application of water to beneficial use. Moreover, a record of such water use under a pre-1914 appropriative right should be established by the filing of a statement of water diversion and use. The law requires that such a statement be completed for diversions during the calendar year and should be filed before July 1 of the following year.

Board of Directors Coloma-Lotus Ditch Users Assn. Page Four June 17, 1987

With respect to the transfer of a pre-1914 water right, much has been written with respect to the problem of uncertainty as to the amount of water which can be transferred. This is mainly due to the absence of quantity restrictions and centralized recording which renders it difficult to determine with any degree of precision exactly what amount of water an appropriator may claim under any particular pre-1914 right.

In addition, it has long been settled in California that an appropriator may change the point of diversion, place of use, or character of the use of water in the exercise of his appropriative right without affecting his right to divert and use the water, provided that the rights of others are not thereby impaired. The Water Code provides that where a person is entitled to the use of water by virtue of an appropriation made prior to the effective date of the Water Commission Act, he may "change the point of diversion, place of use, or purpose of use if others are not injured by such change, and may extend the ditch, flume, pipe or aqueduct by which the diversion is made to places beyond that where the first use was made". Section 1706, California Water Code. It should be noted that this is a general rule only and that a subsequent appropriator is free to claim that a change in the point of diversion has resulted to his or her injury.

As you all are aware, the issues which are presented in this matter are quite complex and should be researched thoroughly. However, the above information should provide you with a sufficient guidance so that you can make an informed decision with respect to how to proceed at this point.

Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,

HEFNER, STARK & MAROIS

BRIAN E. MALONEY

BEM: jth

STATE WATER RIGHTS BOARD Room 1140, Resources Building 1416 - 9th Street Secremento, California 95814

270 1 Statement of Water Diversion and Use Heme of person diverting vater Name of body of water at point of diversion Louis Tributary to _1/4 _ Place of diversion reverse side with regard to section lines or prominent local landmarks. D. Capacity of diversion works is cubic foot per second Capacity of storage reservoir State quantity of water used each month in gallons or acre-feet. Total Tear Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Mov. 1966: If monthly and annual use are not known, check months in which water was used. State extent of use in units, such as scres of each crop irrigated, average number of persons served, number of stock vatered, etc. Walls will be a land of the land of stures let. Theoret of look his Test best Maximum annual vater use in recent years has been _Corr the Minimum annual water use in recent years has been Amp, Type of diversion facility: Gravity , electric power meter Method of measurement: weir flume _ , estimate veter meter Purpose of use (what water is being used for) General description or location of place of use (use sketch of section grid on reverse side if you desire) Year of first use as nearly as known [A. Name of person filing statement Position Address Bankle I certify that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Date signed Alec 17 Signature

See Instructions on Reverse Side